

Underground Storage Tanks

Registration information

In accordance with RCW 90.76 and WAC 173-360, all nonexempt underground storage tanks used to store regulated substances must be registered with the Washington State Department of Ecology by the owner of the tank. An underground storage tank is defined as having at least 10 percent of its volume, including any piping, below the surface of the ground.

You must register an underground storage tank if it contains any of the follow substances:

- **Petroleum**, including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil that is liquid at 60 degrees Fahrenheit and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute.
- **Hazardous substances**, including solvents, acids, caustics, wood preservatives, pesticides, herbicides, and other hazardous chemicals. A complete list of applicable hazardous substances is contained in the federal register: 40 CFR Part 302.4. A copy of this register can be obtained by calling the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Region Ten in Seattle, at (206) 553-2777.

Note: Under federal rules, all existing underground tanks in operation any time after January 1, 1974, were to have been reported by May 8, 1986. If you own an existing tank which has not yet been registered, you must do so using the Business License Application and an Underground Storage Tank Addendum.

For existing, previously unreported tanks which were taken out of operation before November 8, 1984, the owner currently in possession of the tank is responsible to complete the registration. If the responsible owner cannot be located, the owner of the property on which the tank is located must complete the registration.

New installations

You must file notification of intent to install an Underground Storage Tank directly with the Department of Ecology at least 30 days before new installation work begins. Use form ECY 020-95 available from the Department of Ecology or Business Licensing Service for this notification.

You must file a Business License Application and an Underground Storage Tank Addendum with Business Licensing Service within 30 days after a new installation has been completed.

Retrofit and purchase of existing tanks

You must file a Business License Application and an Underground Storage Tank Addendum whenever you retrofit (modify) or purchase existing tanks.

Tanks that are exempt from underground storage tank registration

The following tanks are not required to be registered as underground storage tanks. However, these tanks may be governed by other federal, state or local rules.

- Any tank which was taken out of operation on or before January 1, 1974.
- Tanks with a capacity of 110 gallons or less.
- Farm or residential tanks, with a capacity of 1100 gallons or less, used to store motor fuel for personal or farm use only. The fuel must not be for resale or used for business purposes.
Farm tanks are those located on land used for production of crops or raising of animals, including fish.
Residential tanks are those located on property used primarily for dwelling purposes. This does not include dormitories, mobile home parks, apartment buildings, motels or similar facilities, unless the tank is only for the owner's personal use.
- Tanks which store heating oil used for space or process heating if the tank is located on the same premises where the heating oil is used. Heating oil is defined as Nos. 1,2,4, 5 and 6 technical grades of fuel oil (including navy special fuel oil and bunker C) and other fuels when used as a substitute for one of these fuel oils.
- Septic tanks.
- Pipeline facilities (including gathering lines) regulated under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 or the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, or intrastate pipeline facilities regulated under state laws.
- Surface impoundments, pits, ponds, or lagoons. These are usually natural topographic depressions, excavations or diked areas formed primarily of earthen materials, although they may have synthetic linings. They do not include injection wells.

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B U S I N E S S B U L L E T I N

- Storm water or waste water collection systems, including piping, pumps, conduits and other equipment used for collection and transport of storm water or domestic or industrial waste water to a treatment facility.
- Flow through process tanks. These are tanks that are an integral part of a production process through which product flows during the production operation. This does not include tanks used to store product before it is introduced into the production process or tanks used to store the finished products or by-products of the operation.
- Liquid traps or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering operations.
- Storage tanks situated on or above the floor of an underground area such as a basement, cellar, mine-working, drift, shaft or tunnel. This also includes tanks in underground vaults as long as they may be visually inspected to determine if they are leaking.
- Tanks that contain hazardous wastes are regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C.
- Equipment or machinery tanks such as hydraulic lifts or electrical equipment tanks.
- Emergency overflow tanks, catch basins or sumps.